

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

§

§

v.

§

CRIMINAL NO. H-09-586

§

BASSEY MONDAY IDIONG

§

§

§

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), a detention hearing has been held. I conclude that the following facts are established by a preponderance of the evidence and require the detention of the above-named defendant pending trial in this case.

Findings of Fact

[] A. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), § 3142(f)(1)].

[] (1) The defendant has been convicted of a (federal offense) (state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed) that is

[] a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).

[] an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.

[] an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C. () § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

[] a felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) (A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.

[] (2) The offense described in finding 1 was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.

[] (3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the (date of conviction) (release of the defendant from imprisonment) for the offense described in finding 1.

[] (4) Findings Nos. 1, 2, and 3 establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

[] B. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)]

[] (1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense

[] for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C.
(x) § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

[] under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

[] (2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding 1 that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

[X] C. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)]

[X] (1) Defendant is charged with conspiracy and healthcare fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1349 and 1347.

[X] (2) There is a serious risk that the defendant will flee.

[] (3)

[] (4) There is a serious risk that the defendant will (obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice) (threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror, or attempt to do so).

[] D. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)]

[] (1) As a condition of release of the defendant, bond was set as follows:

[] (2)

[X] (3) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

[] (4) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community.

Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the accusations in the indictment and the information submitted in the Pretrial Services Agency report establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

I conclude that the following factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) are present and are to be taken into account:

1. Defendant is a 30 year old citizen of Nigeria. He came to the United States in 2004 on a student visa, and has been a legal permanent resident since 2006. There is no evidence of significant family ties to Houston that reliably bind him to this community. While he reported to pretrial services that his father and four siblings live in Richmond, Texas, they did not appear in court, offer to cosign a bond, or offer to have defendant reside in their home. Defendant's mother lives in Nigeria.
2. Defendant reported to pretrial services that he is married, and resides with his wife in a home they own. A subsequent interview with defendant's wife revealed that they are separated, he does not reside with her, and the house is solely in her name. The house is currently in foreclosure. He does not have significant financial ties to the community. Moreover, defendant's lack of candor towards pretrial services suggests a lack of trustworthiness.
3. Defendant has traveled abroad extensively, but reports that he cannot find his Nigerian passport. This uncertainty over his passport location creates an opportunity for flight in the event the passport is recovered.
4. Defendant is charged with conspiracy and healthcare fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1349 and 1347. Defendant faces a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.
5. Defendant's only known criminal history is an arrest for driving with an invalid license. Defendant reported an arrest in Harris County for assault, but there is no record of this in the database used by pretrial services.
6. No condition or combination of conditions of release would reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

Directions Regarding Detention

It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with all court proceedings.

Signed at Houston, Texas on October 29, 2009.

Stephen Wm Smith

Stephen Wm Smith
United States Magistrate Judge